

REMARKS

All Remarks in the Amendment After Final Rejection filed January 22, 2007 are incorporated herein by reference.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 18, 27, 36 and 41-43 have been amended. Claims 18-43 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented, and approval of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

In the Advisory Action mailed February 16, 2007, the Examiner notes that that the claim amendments may raise a new rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, since it is unclear what acoustic signal is output or how said acoustic signal is specifically generated.

Therefore, independent claims 18, 27, 42 and 43 are further amended herein to clarify that individual phonemes, for example, are converted into electric signals and to output an acoustic signal from the electric signals. The independent claims, as further amended, further clarify that the acoustic signal that is output is from the electric signals that are converted from the individual phonemes, for example. It is unnecessary to claim how the acoustic signal is specifically generated, since one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly understand the functionality of this feature.

The Examiner also states in the Advisory Action that the claim amendments in the Amendment After Final Rejection do not overcome the rejections of claims 36, 41, 42 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §101. Moreover, the Examiner states that a claim directed to a computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program is a computer element which defines structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and the rest of the computer and, thus, is considered to be statutory subject matter.

Accordingly, independent claims 36 and 41 are further amended herein to recite, "A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions". As defined by the Examiner, these claims are submitted to satisfy all requirement under 35 U.S.C. §101.

It is noted that independent claim 42 recites converting individual phonemes into electric signals and outputting an acoustic signal from the electric signals and, therefore, is patentably subject matter for the reasons provided herein and the Remarks within the Amendment After

Final Rejection filed January 22, 2007.

Independent claim 43, however, currently recites an electronically readable data medium storing at least one computer program to control a processor to perform a method for conditioning a database of words formed of graphemes and phonemes for automatic speech processing using the database, which is respectfully submitted to substantially correspond to the explanation of statutory subject matter provided by the Examiner. Therefore, in addition to the reasons provided above, it is further submitted that the rejection of independent claim 43 should be withdrawn. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The rejections of the pending dependent claims are respectfully overcome for at least the reasons provided above for the amended independent claims.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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